

WILLIAM AND MARY ELIZABETH RHODES MEEKS

William Meeks, son of Athe and Ann Vest Meeks.

Born January 9, 1815, in Charleston, South Carolina.

Married Mary Elizabeth Rhodes.

Died November 30, 1877, St. George, Utah, killed riding a horse.



Mary Elizabeth Rhodes, daughter of George Henry Rhodes and Elizabeth Nisonger. Born January 23, 1818, in Boone, Warnock County, Indiana. Died March 29, 1900 at Bicknell, Utah.

William came to Utah in 1852 in Capt. Nissonger's Company with his parents. After arriving in Utah the Meeks family moved to Nephi, Utah. Three years later they were called to go to Fort Supply in Wyoming where they stayed during the time Johnston's army came through.

In 1858 or 1859 William Meeks came into Provo Valley with Joseph Parker, William Cummings, William Wall and Andrew Ross. They cut some hay and fed their livestock on what they called Meek's Bottom about two miles southwest of the present Heber City.

During the winter of 1859 and 1860 William Meeks and others built a sawmill in Center Creek Canyon, which was the pioneer sawmill in the valley. A grand-daughter, Mary Ann Meeks Wirthlin says her grandfather, William Meeks suggested that the town be called Heber City, after the given name of Heber C. Kimball.

William Meeks was the first Presiding Elder in the valley. In 1860 he helped to build a log cabin, 16 feet by 40 feet which was used for the Pioneer Day celebration that year.

The Meeks family moved to Provo from Heber City and Midway, and from there to St. George where William was killed in a horse accident.

Children of William and Mary were:

Harvey, married Catherine Dowdle

Henry, married Ann Mechem

Elizabeth, married Jared Bullock

Mary Ann, married William Cummings

William, married Sarah Gardner

Joseph, married Vilate Burgess

Mary Jane, married James Pierce
Mary Melissa, married Willard Snow
Mary Louisa, married James Gardner.

William Meeks First Presiding Elder in Provo River Valley

1859 to 18—

Tel 6379
Joe Meeks

J. H.

WILLIAM WALL & WILLIAM MEEKS

J. M. T.

Several expeditions of settlers crossed and recrossed Utah, but it was not until 1856 or 1857 that two men who had climbed the ridge of what is now called Bonanza Flats, discovered Heber Valley.

In 1858 it was considered wise by those in authority to appoint scouts to explore this valley for possibilities of settlement. The scouts must be capable and courageous. William Wall and William Meeks, both of Provo, were appointed.

The plan was for them to bring their cattle into Heber Valley in the summer of 1858. With sickle and scythe they were to harvest sufficient wild hay to feed the cattle through the winter of 1858-1859. And they did.

Their plows were among the first to break the soil in Wasatch County.

William Wall later moved to the South-East into another place he called Round Valley. They place has now come to bear his name, Wallsburg. William Wall was the husband of five wives and the father of thirty children. The fine progressive town of Wallsburg is home to many of his descendants among whom is his daughter, Susan Davis.

The name, Meeks, is often seen and heard in Wasatch County. The families of William Meeks can be justly proud of the foundation he laid for them.

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